Maria G. Castro, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

My research goals are to develop gene therapy strategies for the treatment of neuroendocrine disorders, such as pituitary disease, brain tumors, and chronic neurodegenerative disorders. My research group has developed novel gutless adenovirus vectors, and has pioneered in vivo gene transfer into the pituitary gland and the central nervous system. I am particularly interested in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms, that mediate long-term transgene expression and the immunological basis, which determine the interactions between viral vectors and their target tissues. I am also pursuing preclinical testing of these novel gene therapies as a prelude to clinical trials in humans. I serve on the editorial boards of Gene Therapy, Current Gene Therapy, Journal of Endocrinology, Journal of Molecular Endocrinology, Pituitary, and the Journal of Neuromolecular Medicine. I am a recipient of NIH grants to develop novel gene therapy approaches to treat brain diseases, such as Parkinson's disease and brain cancer. I have published in more than 125 original research articles and have published in high-impact journals, such as *Nature* Medicine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of USA, Nature Biotechnology, Endocrinology, and Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

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